

**Cultivation of Banana and Coconut in cyclone affected areas of Orissa**

2659. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the huge losses suffered by Orissa since 1999-2000 due to large scale damage of coconut and banana trees in that State;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to help the Government of Orissa in the matter;

(c) whether any special scheme has been sponsored by the Centre to develop coconut and banana particularly in the cyclone affected districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) An estimated area of about 25,900 hectares of coconut plantation in Orissa was affected due to cyclone during October, 1999. However, there has been no estimate about the loss of banana. An additional amount of Rs. 185.88 lakhs was provided to the Government of Orissa during 1999-2000 under the programme of Coconut Development Board over and above the allocation of Rs. 14.12 lakhs. Besides, an amount of Rs. 300.00 lakhs was provided to the State Government under the Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits over and above the allocation of Rs. 335.11 lakhs. Apart from the above, the details of financial assistance provided to the State in the wake of natural calamities during 1999-2000 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crores)

(i) Centre's share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 1999-2000	42.50
(ii) Assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) in the wake of floods and cyclones.	828.15
(iii) Advance Plan assistance for 2 cyclones.	450.00

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) and (d) No special scheme has been sponsored by the Central Government to develop coconut and banana particularly in the cyclone affected districts as such. However, the ongoing schemes of (i) Integrated Development of Coconut Industry in India and (ii) Integrated Development of Fruits are being implemented in Orissa during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

**MOUs signed in agriculture sector**

2660. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MOUs signed by the Ministry with various countries in the field of agriculture during the past three years;

(b) whether according to a newspaper report, recently a MOU for cooperation between India and Thailand in the field of agriculture are in the process of signing shortly;

(c) if so, whether the *same* has been signed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The number of Agreements/Memorandums of Understanding signed by the Ministry of Agriculture with various countries for cooperation in the field of agriculture during the past three years (Financial Year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000) is 17.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between India and Thailand for cooperation in the field of agriculture has been finalised.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The MOU is yet to be signed.